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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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TO : The File

DATE: August 1970

FROM : ARA-LA/APU - Irving G. Tragen

SUBJECT: Mitrione Funeral Arrangements

When word was received from Montevideo on the morning of August 10 that Mr. Mitrione had been murdered, APU took charge of making necessary arrangements for bringing his body back to the United States. After a series of cables and phone conversations with the Embassy in Montevideo, it was determined that the most effective manner for returning his body would be by Air Force jet. The Embassy investigated commercial carriers and determined that the most desirable available carrier would be Aerolineas Argentinas which would leave Montevideo on the evening of August 11 and bring the widow and her family to Richmond, Indiana on August 12 after a change of planes at Kennedy International Airport in New York. Under the circumstances, this commercial arrangements did not seem desirable, and arrangements were made through Jim Walden (LA/MGT) for renting an Air Force jet for this purpose. APU and LA/MGT contacted Col. Black (ARA/ISA) for communicating with the USAF for obtaining the plane. With the cooperation of Jim Walden, Col. Black and Byron Engle, arrangements were made for the plane. Then, the five Mitrione children in the United States were contacted by Mr. Marasciulo and they were permitted to fly on the plane to Montevideo to be with their mother for the return trip to Richmond, Indiana. Mr. David Powell of Public Safety was selected to accompany the children after it was determined that no one was available from APU and that Byron Engle and his immediate staff would be needed for follow-up work here.

The plane schedule provided for departure from Andrews Air Force Base at about 4:00 a.m., August 11, with arrival in Montevideo at about 5:00 p.m. Montevideo time; the return trip to Richmond, Indiana would begin about 7:00 p.m. Montevideo time, after appropriate ceremonies at the airport, and after one stop at Ramey Air Force Base the jet would deposit the family at Cox Municipal Airport, Dayton, Ohio, at about 7:30 a.m., August 12.

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With the travel arrangements made, I called the City Engineer of Richmond, Indiana, Mr. Cecere (tel: 317 962-3678) to begin to work out the funeral arrangements in Richmond. Mr. Cecere, who was a close friend of the Mitrione family, and Mayor Byron Clute (tel: 317 96 3561) were my principal contacts. They consulted with Mr. Mitrione's brothers and brothers-in-law on the necessary arrangements.

We were advised that the family had selected the Holy Family Church for the funeral; originally, the funeral was to have been held on Friday, August 14, but the widow during her return flight to the States indicated her preference for the funeral on Thursday, August 13. Arrangements were also made with the Stiegall-Berheide-Orr Funeral Home, North Tenth Street, Richmond, and for the placing of the casket in the Rotunda of the Municipal Building during the afternoon of August 12. Mrs. Mitrione, from the aircraft, indicated her preferences as to various other arrangements in connection with the viewing of the body.

With the Mayor, the office worked out an arrival ceremony at Cox Municipal Airport. Thanks to the assistance of Col. Black, contact was made with the appropriate authorities in the U.S. Air Force (Mr. Courtney at telephone 274-9330) for assembling a military honor guard to receive the body on its arrival at Dayton. The Mayor pointed out that he did not want an honor guard after arrival since the Police Department of Richmond, Indiana wished to do the honors for its former chief. Hence, arrangements were made for a police escort from the airport to Richmond as well as for a brief ceremony to receive the body on its arrival.

With the Mayor, arrangements were made for the funeral mass in Richmond at 10:00 a.m., August 13. Mrs. Mitrione indicated her preference for the type of service and the officiating priests. She also indicated whom she wanted as pall bearers as well as an announcement to be placed in the Richmond newspapers asking their friends not to send flowers but instead contribute money to a fund for the Law Enforcement Program at Richmond Junior College, Richmond, Indiana, in the name of her husband. In light of this last request, it was determined to minimize floral

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offerings from the Embassy/Montevideo, USAID/Uruguay and APU; a floral offering was sent from Ambassador Adair, Secretary Rogers and AID Administrator Hannah.

Next, APU firmed up the arrangements for official representation at the funeral on August 13. Secretary and Mrs. Rogers indicated their desire to attend the funeral; they traveled in their Jet Star (which was able to land at the Richmond Municipal Airport); their party consisted of David Eisenhower representing President Nixon, Dr. Hannah, Senator Hartke of Indiana and Congressman David Dennis of Indiana and one aide; Senator Bayh of Indiana was also invited but because of congressional business was unable to attend. The Mayor made the necessary arrangements for local transportation to meet the Secretary at the airport, take him to the church and to the cemetery before returning him to the airport. The Mayor also made arrangements for a brief private meeting between the Secretary, Mrs. Rogers and Mrs. Mitrione.

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